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## The pop scene around the world

Andrew Clawson  
*Iowa State University*

Emily Kudobe  
*Iowa State University*

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# The POP SCENE

## Around the World

### Taiwan

After the People's Republic of China was established, much of the music industry left for Taiwan. Language restrictions at the time, put in place by the KMT, forbade the use of Japanese language and the native Hokkien and required the use of Mandarin. Since then, Mandarin Pop, or Mandopop in Taiwan, grew to popularity throughout mainland China, Hong Kong, and even Japan. Today the People's Republic of China has eased up on the censorship laws of the 1940's, allowing the growth of the music industry in the mainland.

**Rene Liu:** Mandopop

**Jay Chou:** Pop, Rock, R&B, Hip-Hop

**Teresa Teng:** Mandopop, Cantopop, J-pop

**MC Hotdog:** Hip-Hop

**The Chairman:** Rock, Indie

### South Korea

South Korea's music market has grown alongside its economy to become one of the biggest producers in the world. While many similarities can be found in the music of South Korea, especially compared to Japan and China, significant differences remain. Hip-Hop's popularity is much more widespread in Korea than in China or Japan. K-pop continues to be Korea's biggest musical export, with Korean pop singers occasionally stealing spots from Japan's Top 10.

**Witches:** Ska, K-Rock

**Yoon Do Hyun Band:** K-Rock

**Ignito:** Underground Hip-Hop

**Verbal Jint:** Hip-Hop, R&B, Pop

**Donawhale:** K-Indie

**Outsider:** Hip-Hop, K-Pop, World's Fastest Rapper

**Epik High:** Hip-Hop, Pop

### Hong Kong

Hong Kong can be thought of as the Hollywood of the Far East, with its enormous film and music industry. Some of Asia's most famous actors and actresses come from Hong Kong, and many of those actors and actresses are also pop singers. Cantonese pop music, known as Cantopop, is most popular in Hong Kong, Macau, and Guangdong, but has found success throughout East Asia.

**Charlene Choi:** Cantopop

**MC Jin:** Hip-Hop

**Anita Mui:** Cantopop

**Andy Lau:** Cantopop

### China

For many years, popular music in China has been in the shadows of Hong Kong and Taiwan. Today the mainland is making a comeback. Similar to the United States, China in the 1990's saw the rise of Heavy Metal and Alternative Rock. Today, China's flourishing art scene is beginning to receive international acclaim with artists such as Ai Weiwei and photographer Li Wei. The mainland with its growth of pop stars has become a competing force against the long established Pop music markets of Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, and Korea. China's growing number of independent record labels has given music listeners and producers an alternative to Mandopop.

**Zhong Chi:** Indie, Trip-Hop

**Yaksa:** Metalcore

**Tang Dynasty:** Chinese Rock

**B6:** Electronic, Minimalist

**Ceezy:** Electronic, Jazz

**VC SuperVC:** Brit-Rock, Indie

### Japan

Japan is the second largest music market in the world. Japanese pop, or J-pop, is popular throughout Asia, with artists such as Utada Hikaru reaching popularity in the United States. Heavy metal is also very popular in Japan. Japanese rock bands, while influenced by the West, have created a unique style unlike any bands outside of Japan. British and American rock bands of the 1980's have influenced Japanese rock music with styles such as Visual Kei, a unique take on 1980's glam rock. Hip hop is also popular in Japan, with DJ's Krush and Baku gaining international success, but has not reached the popularity that hip hop has reached in South Korea. Love it or hate it, technopop deserves an honorable mention as a sound strongly identified with Japanese culture.

**Dir En Grey:** J-Rock, Heavy Metal, Visual Kei

**Tokyo Incidents:** Jazz, Rock, Lounge

**Yoshinori Sunahara:** Electronic, Jazz,

Lounge, Shibuya Kei

**DJ Krush:** Hip-Hop, Turntablism

**DJ Baku:** Hip-Hop, Turntablism

**Perfume:** J-Pop, Technopop

**Meiko Kaji:** Traditional/Enka

**Greeeen:** J-Pop, Rock

**The Gazette:** J-Rock, Heavy Metal

BY: ANDREW CLAWSON

DESIGN: EMILY KUDOBÉ